

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /142 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2828
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5587

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG
SUBJECT: ISRAELI GAS EXPLORATION IN NORTHERN SINAI

REF: TEL AVIV 5237

1. SUMMARY: EXPANDING ISRAELI GAS EXPLORATION IN
NORTHERN SINAI SHOWS INCREASING SIGNS OF A MAJOR GAS
PROVINCE, WITH NEW WELLS UNDERWAY OR PLANNED AT SADOT
FIELD, DIKLA AND MANAS. NO OIL HAS BEEN FOUND AND THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE SULFUR FIND IS DISCOUNTED.
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING APRIL 25 FIELD TRIP, EMBOFF FOUND THAT SADOT 3,
A NEW WELL LOCATED ABOUT THREE KM. SOUTHWEST OF SADOT 2,
IS NOW DOWN TO 400 METERS WITH FIVE INCH PIPE. WITHIN
A WEEK IT IS EXPECTED TO REACH THE LEVEL OF 1450 METERS,
WHERE SADOT 2 STRUCK COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES OF GAS.

3. AT DIKLA A RIG CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THOSE USED
AT SADOT FIELD IS DOWN TO 1,700 METERS WITH SEVEN INCH
PIPE AND HAS FOUND MORE GAS THAN AT THE SADOT WELLS,
ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN PETROLEUM ENGINEER ON THE
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SITE WHO ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVES NORTHERN SINAI
CONTAINS A MAJOR GAS PROVINCE. HE ESTIMATED THAT
DIKLA MIGHT PRODUCE SEVEN MILLION CUBIC FEET PER DAY.
(THE WELL CALLED DIKLA IS IN FACT NINE KM. WEST AND
4 KM. SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF THAT NAME.) HE
SAID THAT AS SOON AS DIKLA IS FINISHED, IT IS PLANNED
TO MOVE THE RIG ABOUT 25 KM. SOUTH TO DRILL ANOTHER

EXPLORATORY WELL.

4. THE ENGINEER SAID THAT "GOFER" HAD BEEN ABANDONED AT 2,500 METERS WITHOUT STRIKING GAS AND THAT IT HAS BEEN DECIDED NOT TO DRILL AT "SLAV." HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT WESTERN DESERT IS NOW DRILLING AN EXPLORATORY WELL AT "MANAS" (PHONETIC) ABOUT 100 KM WEST OF EL ARISH ON THE HIGHWAY TO QANTARA AND "RIGHT UP AGAINST THE BUFFER ZONE," TO BE COMPLETED IN A FEW WEEKS.

5. THE ENGINEER DISCOUNTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SULFUR FIND AT DIKLA, IMPLYING THAT EVEN IF IT WERE A LARGE DEPOSIT EXPLOITATION MIGHT NOT BE PROFITABLE.

6. THE ENGINEER SAID THAT THE HOUSTON FIRM OF PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS UNIVERSAL, INC. FURNISHES MOST OF THE PERSONNEL FOR ALMA AND SADOT FIELDS, PELUSION AND DIKLA. THE REPORTING OFFICER FOUND THAT MANY OF THE WORKERS AT SADOT 2 AND 3 AND SOME OF DIKLA WERE ISRAELI EMPLOYEES OF THE GOI-OWNED DRILLING COMPANY, LAPIDOT. A SIGN POSTED AT SADOT FIELD SAYS, IN ENGLISH, "OIL EXPLORATION INVESTMENTS LTD., PARTNERS WESTERN DESERT, INC., PAZ OIL EXPLORATION AND ABJAC ENERGY CORP." ABJAC IS UNKNOWN TO THE EMBASSY.
VIETS

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